Free All Political Prisoners And Prisoners of War

Support The Resistance Conspiracy Case (Wash., D.C.)

Stop Preventive Detention - Release Laura Whitehorn On Bail

Laura Whitehorn is one of six north american political prisoners charged in Washington, D.C. with conspiracy "to influence, change, and protest policies and practices of the U.S. government concerning various international and domestic matters through violent and illegal means." The six are accused of bombing eight U.S. government and military installations, including the U.S. Capitol after the U.S. invasion of the independent Black Republic of Grenada. There were no injuries to any person in any of the political bombings.

The communiques which accompanied these actions protested, among other things, U.S. involvement in South African apartheid, the police aggression/repression against the New York City Black community after the murder of Eleanor Bumpurs (a 67 year old grandmother who was gunned down by police during an eviction), as well as violations of domestic and international law in U.S. intervention in Central America, Latin American and the Caribbean, and U.S. colonization of Puerto Rico. The communiques evidence that all the actions were taken in solidarity with oppressed peoples struggling for self-determination and the right to live free from U.S. governmental intervention.

Jailed Two Years Without Trial

Laura Whitehorn has been incarcerated since 1985, and has been held in preventive detention for over two years. If she were not a political prisoner whose life since the 1960's has been involved in support of the just struggles of the Vietnamese people, fighting against the KKK and racist violence, and in support of the New Afrikan independence and Puerto Rican independence movements, she would have been granted bail when she was arrested four years ago. Instead, she has been told, in essence, that her views of resistance represent a danger to the American community and, as such, she is to be punished even before her trial.

Although the preventive detention statute was intended for career criminals and drug traffickers, the denial of bail has been repeatedly misapplied in cases where persons hold political viewpoints contrary to those of the U.S.government. The first individuals sought to be held in preventive detention were eight Black political activists in New York who were arrested in massive police raids accompanied by front-page headlines calling them "dangerous criminals" and "terrorists". Ultimately, after court battles, all of them were released on bail and, after a three month trial, were acquitted on all but the most minor of charges. Since that time prosecutors have consistently argued against bail for freedom fighters and revolutionaries. Preventive Detention was used in Connecticut against members of Los Macheteros, a group demanding independence for Puerto Rico. Preventive Detention was used against New Afrikan freedom fighter Dr. Mutulu Shakur prior to convicting him for assisting with the liberation of Sister Assata Shakur. Preventive Detention was used against anti-imperialists in Massachusetts. Preventive Detention is currently being used against 1960's educator and COINTELPRO target Herman Ferguson, who faces 18 year old trumped up charges in New York.

The Wall Must Come Down

The pretrial detention of Laura Whitehorn is in concert with other extraordinary measures associated with this case. During courtroom proceedings, a bulletproof plexiglass wall divides the courtroom while security cameras trained on the Defendants and their supporters further reinforce the impression that they are dangerous. This guise of "security" is nothing more than the creation of an atmosphere of fear and intimidation designed to make a fair trial impossible.

The Politically-motivated Indictment Must Be Dropped

Laura Whitehorn is the only one of the six Defendants not currently serving time on a previous sentence. The remaining Defendants (Susan Rosenberg, Timothy Blunk, Alan Berkman, Marilyn Buck and Linda Evans) are already serving unprecedented lengthy prison terms of from 12-70 years. After pretrial motions, however, the judge was forced to dismiss all charges against three of the Defendants (Berkman, Rosenberg and Blunk) on the grounds of double jeopardy (the prosecution relied on the same evidence to convict the three in previous trials). The dismissal represents the results of a year of struggle in which the court was forced to recognize the over-zealous and far reaching nature of the case. The dismissal, however, is being appealed by the United States, thus bringing proceedings against the remaining Defendants to a halt. The political nature of this prosecution is obvious. The United States' own attorney admitted in open court that there is no direct proof as to who actually did any of the bombings. The dismissal of only three Defendants, thus, does not go far enough: the charges against all of the Defendants must be dropped.

Fill The Courtroom

Laura Whitehorn's attorney, Nkechi Taifa, will argue to the judge that the length of time her client has been in preventive detention is punitive, in violation of the U.S. constitution, and that she should immediately be granted bail.

WHEN: Tuesday, May 30, 1989

9:45 a.m. (Rally outside courthouse at 9:00)

WHERE: U.S. District Court

3rd and Constitution Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. Courtroom 10 (Judge Harold Greene)

As Frederick Douglas once said, "Power Concedes Nothing Without a Demand!"

We demand that Laura Whitehorn be released on bail

We demand that the courtroom wall and cameras be removed

We demand that this politically-motivated indictment be dropped

Your support for this case and other cases of political prisoners and prisoners of war throughout the country is essential.

For more info. contact:
New Afrikan Network in Defense of Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War: P.O. Box 90604, Washington, D.C. 20090-0604:
(202) 526-6279.